

Message Text

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R 162223Z OCT 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 227890

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SCUL, TW, CH
SUBJECT: ROC OPERA ACROBATIC TROUPE VISITS TO US

REF: (A) TAIPEI 6014 (EXDIS); (B) TAIPEI 4107 (EXDIS)

1. ON REVIEWING OUR FILES WE LEARNED THAT GROG HAD, AS EMBASSY POINTED OUT, GIVEN US ADEQUATE NOTIFICATION OF OPERA TROUPE VISIT AND ITINERARY. WE WERE RELYING HERE ON ITINERARY GIVEN IN H-1 PETITION APPLICATION FILED WITH INS WHICH DID NOT INCLUDE SPOKANE PERFORMANCES. IN ANY EVENT, THERE IS NO CAUSE FOR COMPLAINT ON OPERA TROUPE VISIT.

2. THERE IS, HOWEVER, REASON FOR CONCERN IN CASE OF ACROBATIC TROUPE SCHEDULED TO PERFORM IN SPOKANE. WHILE WE HAVE NO INDICATION THAT ANYTHING OTHER THAN POOR COORDINATION WAS INVOLVED IN GROG'S FAILURE TO NOTIFY US, THIS DOES NOT DIMINISH POTENTIALLY SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES. MOREOVER, COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS BETWEEN MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, MOFA, ROC EMBASSY AND CONSULATES
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HERE REVEALED BY THIS INCIDENT LEAVE US SOMEWHAT UNEASY.

3. AS SUGGESTED IN REF A, WE HAVE REVIEWED CONTROL PROCEDURES DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPH 5 OF REF B. ESSENTIALLY, SOLE CONTROL MECHANISM IS INS FLAGGING GROUP FOR US AT TIME H PETITION IS SUBMITTED. IF GROC FAILS TO SUBMIT PETITION, HOWEVER, AS IN CASE OF

ACROBATS, THIS CONTROL IS RENDERED USELESS. INS CLEARANCE WITH US ALSO ADDS TO TIME REQUIRED TO PROCESS PETITIONS.

4. CONTROLS WILL BE INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT BECAUSE THE PRC PLANS TO SEND AT LEAST ONE PERFORMING GROUP TO THE US DURING FIRST HALF OF 1975, PROBABLY SPRING. WE WILL PROVIDE ADDITIONAL DETAIL AS IT BECOMES AVAILABLE.

5. IN THIS CONTEXT, WE ATTACH PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE TO EMBASSY REVIEW OF PROBLEM WITH MOFA AND MINED (PARA 5, REF A). IMPROVEMENT OF GROC COORDINATION IS ESSENTIAL IF WE ARE TO AVOID FUTURE CONFLICTS.

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